

WE MUST REFORM LAST YEAR'S CRIME BILL

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's crime bill of 1994 was either a masterstroke of genius or it was a joke wrapped around a sham surrounded by a barrel of pork. I'm inclined to agree the latter possibility is closer to the truth.

The proponents of last year's crime bill proclaimed from every rooftop that 100,000 police would be put on the streets. What they didn't tell anyone was that local governments had to cough up 25 percent of the cost of fielding these police officers. With most local and State governments cracking under the strain of other Federal mandates, many localities could not afford yet another mandate.

Mr. Speaker, we must reform last year's crime bill and help local governments by giving them block grants instead of punishing them with more mandates.

Local control and local problem solving from those on the front line combating crime, that is the key, not one-size-fits-all from an idiocracy ensconced on the banks of the Potomac.

Mr. Speaker, Americans spoke last November 8. They continue to speak through this Contract With America. We will enact it and we will get tough on crime.

TIME TO SHINE BRIGHT LIGHT ON MEXICAN BAILOUT

(Mr. VISCLOSKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, if NAFTA is such a great deal why are we bailing out Mexico?

We need answers and open debate on this and many other questions concerning the Mexican bailout.

It is just flat out wrong for at least 20 billion taxpayer dollars to be put at risk without congressional debate and action. Our willingness to duck—or even talk about—this tough political issue is an object failure of the Congress to meet its constitutional responsibilities.

Congress—not the President—controls the power of the purse and Congress needs to vigorously protect the taxpayers' money. That's why the Banking Committee should favorably and fully act on the resolution of inquiry so we can get some real answers.

Mr. Speaker, we're in the dark and the American people want answers. It's time for Congress to shine a bright light on the Mexican bailout.

REFORMING OSHA REGULATIONS

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about disincentive. In a typically bizarre manner, OSHA has created a rule that provides a disincentive for employers to look out for the safety of their workers. If an employer voluntarily starts a study to see if their employees are at risk due to exposure to chemicals or hazardous materials, OSHA requires that employer to keep medical records for their employees for the duration of their employment plus 30 years.

Employers are not required to do these self-studies, but if an employer wants to begin a voluntary self-study, OSHA makes the costs so prohibitive that no employer in his or her right mind would every try. What employer wants to keep medical records on employees for over 50 years? Mr. Speaker, this is just another example of an agency with no common sense. This is why we need regulatory reform and a moratorium on new regulations until we can sort all this out. OSHA is one agency that needs to be restructured, reinvented, or just plain removed.

STOP THE GRAVY TRAIN FOR RUSSIA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, you heard about Boris, now get a load of Yuri. That is right, Yuri Luzhkov, mayor of Moscow, next President of Russia. Secret meetings, secret budgets, secret records, secret million dollar deals. This guy Yuri makes Boss Tweed look like mother Teresa, but he is a prototype, Congress, of new Russian politicians. He hires his family so he can save money on the car pool.

Meanwhile, they are laughing all the way to the bank with our \$12 billion. To boot, it is being put in a Russian bank.

I think Boris and now specifically Yuri leave a lot to be denied, and I say Congress should stop this \$12 billion gravy train for Russia and invest it in America. I think these guys are no Thomas Jefferson.

THE FIRST 40 DAYS

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, this is day 41 of the new Congress. And what have we really accomplished? Plenty. We passed the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, unfunded mandates reform and the line-item veto. This week we are working to pass the final piece of the crime package that will insure criminals spend their time behind bars in prison, so law abid-

ing citizens do not spend their time behind bars in their homes.

Many of us ran for this office on the promise to take power from Washington and return it to the people closest to the problem. Our bill to fight violent crime recognizes that local governments know best how to deal with the problem. It gives them the tools, then gets out of their way.

Yesterday, President Clinton's Chief of Staff said Washington politicians should direct crime-fighting dollars. Well, President Clinton may think Washington knows best, I think the American people know best.

With this bill we continue to keep our promises to bring real change to Washington, to keep our contract on track and to fight violent crime with local solutions, not Washington-knows-best conclusions.

NOMINATION OF DR. FOSTER FOR SURGEON GENERAL

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the radical right opposes Dr. Foster's nomination for one reason, and one reason only: because he performed abortions.

The other objections are just a smokescreen. This is not about Dr. Foster's credibility and it is not about hysterectomies. It is about the right to choose.

The American people will not allow a narrow band of extremist special interest groups to derail Dr. Foster's nomination. The majority of Americans do not want the right to pick our Nation's next Surgeon General.

The new anti-choice majority in Congress wants to use this nomination to take American women backward. They want to completely roll back the right to choose. This is just the opening round in that battle.

Mr. Speaker, we will not back down. We will not tolerate the harassment of doctors, whether it occurs in front of clinics or on Capitol Hill. Dr. Foster is in this fight to the finish and he is going to win.

PASS H.R. 728 NOW

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, crime in America is out of control. By the time I finish speaking, an American citizen will be robbed and two more will be assaulted. Someone will be a victim of rape within the next 4 minutes in this country, and before we move on to the legislative business at least one American will be murdered.

Mr. Speaker, those statistics are scary. They scare the American people and they scare law enforcement officials. The only ones who are not scared are the criminals.